

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of forming a nutritional food product comprising the steps of:
 - (a) forming a mixture comprising a sugar-based sweetening ingredient and a quantity of oil and/or fat;
 - (b) cooking said mixture by heating to a temperature of from about 220-320 degrees F. to yield a low-moisture cooked liquid mixture;
 - (c) mixing said liquid mixture with a measured proportional quantity of dry materials including an ingredient selected from the group consisting of vitamins, minerals, proteins, phytochemicals, nutraceuticals and other nutrients and mixtures thereof, said ingredient to be delivered in a measured dose;
 - (d) supplying said mixture resulting from step (c) to a metering device;
 - (e) delivering in a highly viscous state out of the metering device and into a container with moisture barrier qualities a measured amount of the mixture sufficient to provide a predetermined measured dose of said ingredient, said container serving as a mold for shaping the measured amount into a solid, integral mass upon cooling; and
 - (f) sealing the container with a removable moisture barrier.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the container is a tray comprising a bottom, sidewalls, and an open top, the bottom and sidewalls defining a volume for receiving the mixture.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the container bottom comprises a ridge.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the container further comprises an extended rim along said open top.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the removable moisture barrier affixes to the extended rim.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein the removable moisture barrier is a polyester backed foil.
7. The method of claim 2, wherein the container is formed from amorphous polyethylene terephthalate, polyvinyl chloride, copolyester or high impact polystyrene.
8. An edible nutritional food in the form of an integral , self-sustaining body within a dosage package, comprising:
 - a sugar-based sweetening ingredient;
 - a quantity of oil and/or fat;
 - a quantity of a supplement mixed with said sweetening ingredient and oil and/or fat, said supplement comprising an ingredient selected from the group consisting of proteins, vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals, nutraceuticals and other nutrients and being supplied in a measured proportion;said dosage package containing a metered amount of the supplement mixed with said sweetening ingredient and oil and/or fat sufficient to provide a predetermined measured dose

of said supplement, said dosage package comprising a container with moisture barrier qualities filled with the metered amount conforming to the shape of the container and being sealed with a removable moisture barrier; and

said metered amount having a total moisture content of less than about 8% by weight, based upon the total weight of the metered amount taken as 100% by weight.

9. The product of claim 8, wherein the container is a tray comprising a bottom, sidewalls, and an open top, the bottom and sidewalls defining a volume for receiving the mixture.

10. The product of claim 8, wherein the container bottom comprises a ridge.

11. The product of claim 8, wherein the container further comprises an extended rim along said open top.

12. The product of claim 11, wherein the removable moisture barrier affixes to the extended rim.

13. The product of claim 8, wherein the removable moisture barrier is a polyester backed foil.

14. The product of claim 8, wherein the container is formed from amorphous polyethylene terephthalate, polyvinyl chloride, copolyester or high impact polystyrene.

15. A method of administering a livestock supplement, the method comprising:
- (a) selecting a livestock animal to receive a livestock supplement;
 - (b) determining at least one characteristic of the livestock animal selected from the group consisting of species, breed, gender, age, weight, physical condition, health condition, type of nutritional deficiency, type of illness, activity level, and dietary intake;
 - (c) selecting a packaged integral livestock supplement that provides a single controlled dose of ingredients formulated to correspond to the at least one characteristic, wherein the packaged livestock supplement comprises a low-moisture, molasses-based product sealed in a container having a removable lid, the container and lid having moisture barrier qualities;
 - (d) removing the molasses-based product from the container; and
 - (e) providing the molasses-based product to the livestock animal.
16. A method of claim 15, wherein the ingredients include medicaments.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein the ingredients include vitamins.
18. The method of claim 15, wherein the ingredients include minerals.
19. The method of claim 15, wherein the container is a tray comprising a bottom, sidewalls, and an open top, the bottom and sidewalls defining a volume for holding the molasses-based product.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the container bottom comprises a ridge.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the container further comprises an extended rim along said open top.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the removable top affixes to the extended rim.
23. The method of claim 19, wherein the removable top is a polyester backed foil.
24. The method of claim 19, wherein the container is formed from amorphous polyethylene terephthalate, polyvinyl chloride, copolyester or high impact polystyrene.
25. A set of packaged supplements for regimented administration to a livestock animal, the set comprising:
- a plurality of packaged base supplements;
 - at least one packaged special supplement; and
 - a container adapted to hold said plurality of base supplements and said at least one special supplement,
- wherein the total number of supplements held within the container corresponds to the number of supplements to be administered during a predetermined administration period.
26. The set of claim 25, further comprising an indicator for indicating the order in which the base and special supplements are to be administered to the livestock animal during the predetermined administration period.
27. The set of claim 25, wherein the base and special supplements are arranged in the container to indicate the order in which the supplements are to be administered to the livestock animal during the predetermined administration period.

28. The set of claim 25, wherein the base supplement is formulated to maintain the livestock animal's overall health and the special supplement is formulated to meet the animal's special health needs.
29. The set of claim 28, wherein the base supplement is a low-moisture, molasses-based supplement formulated for the nutritional needs of a performance livestock animal.
30. The set of claim 28, wherein the base supplement is a low-moisture, molasses-based supplement formulated for the nutritional needs of a senior livestock animal.
31. The set of claim 28, wherein the base supplement is a low-moisture, molasses-based supplement and wherein its formulation is a maintenance formulation, a performance formulation, or a senior formulation.
32. The set of claim 28, wherein the special supplement is a low-moisture, molasses-based supplement containing a wormer.
33. The set of claim 28, wherein the special supplement is a low-moisture, molasses-based supplement containing a hoof health enhancer.
34. The set of claim 28, wherein the special supplement is a low-moisture, molasses-based supplement containing a coat health enhancer.
35. The set of claim 25, wherein the container holds a total of 28 supplements, at least one of which is a special supplement selected from the group consisting of a wormer, a coat health enhancer, and a hoof health enhancer, and the remaining supplements being a base supplement selected from the group consisting of a maintenance formulated supplement, a performance formulated supplement, and a senior formulated supplement.

36. The set of claim 25, wherein the container holds a total of 7 supplements, at least one of which is a special supplement selected from the group consisting of a wormer, a coat health enhancer, and a hoof health enhancer, and the remaining supplements being a base supplement selected from the group consisting of a maintenance formulated supplement, a performance formulated supplement, and a senior formulated supplement.